

## V-Day, September 8 2007 – Massimo Majowiecki

**Beppe Grillo:** ... they have the money, the subsidies from our taxes, and they talk about things that they don't understand. They commission the best architects from around the world, they commission Spanish architects and Russian architects, in order to make as if they are creating heaven alone knows what. There are any number of good architects out there and we must get them to talk! One of these is Majowiecki, who has a few things to show you. Go Massimo.

**Massimo Majowiecki:** Well, I thank you very much for the invitation because it gives me the chance to say one or two things that cannot be said elsewhere. Normally I am limited to speaking to groups of around thirty people, mostly students. For me, this is something totally out of the ordinary. I feel a bit like a singer ...

**Beppe Grillo:** Today you are a pop star!

**Massimo Majowiecki:** Yes, Yes!! I created these things. Simply to introduce myself: the stadium in Rome, the "Delle Alpi" stadium, the Braga in Portugal and several bridges. Just to say that there was something that I needed to criticise. My first criticism was against the Messina bridge. I wrote on Beppe's blog so as to let everyone understand precisely what the actual situation is. I take this opportunity to respond to the many people that commented on the blog posting. They wrote that: "This would be a stupendous Italian structure". The truth is that this is a fallacy, because the tender was divided into three sections. Behind it all lay Danish and Japanese engineering, so the structure itself would not even have been an Italian one. We would have passed for fools that no longer know how to design or to build anything.

The other matter concerns computerisation in the field of architecture; what precisely has this third revolution achieved? Just take a look at this Catia programme, or shall we call it the "rhinoceros". It was originally intended for use as a tools for designing models of chairs, machines ...

**Beppe Grillo:** An aside. How do today's architects actually design things? They do so by using these three-dimensional computerised systems... software such as Catia, the "rhinoceros", and so on. If you then go to Bilbao and look at the Guggenheim Museum building designed by Frank Gehry... how did he actually design this building? How exactly do architects do their work? Do you know precisely how one of the greatest architects actually designed that museum? He explained, poking fun at himself, except that everyone took him seriously. He states that he took a sheet of newspaper, crumpled it into a ball and threw it on the ground. Then, while he looked at the crumpled shape of the sheet of paper, a video camera recorded the empty spaces contained within the crumpled sheet and he then went on to construct a building. These people are crazy!

**Massimo Majowiecki:** Look here, this is much the same thing. Alvaralto designed this, and I have one sitting on my desk. We are now designing buildings like this. This is no longer architecture, but simply industrial design. It actually exists, in Holland.

And what about this ... how is this any different from any other object? They have forgotten all about function, forgotten that there are people inside. Unfortunately, all we do these days is create a scenario because, as for the rest, all we are doing is selling smoke.

**Beppe Grillo:** If we were crayons, we could quite happily exist in a skyscraper such as this one...

**Massimo Majowiecki:** Let's go on. Look what lies under the clothing. It looks almost already "deconstructed", to use a modern term.

**Beppe Grillo:** It looks as if it has already collapsed.

**Massimo Majowiecki:** This is the problem we have with engineers.

**Beppe Grillo:** This is currently being built, in China if I'm not mistaken.

So, do you now understand precisely what is being done with public money? You sir, sitting there laughing, you with all your money! What the hell is there to laugh about?!

**Massimo Majowiecki:** This is the architect's sketch, at which point it becomes ... look at the mess that the poor engineer is left to deal with.

And here is another ... no longer fashionable, simply because it is "straight"! We need to produce things that are all twisted ... one box on top of another ... here are some examples in Milan, here we have a taller creation that is all twisted, looking down upon its poor neighbour, which is smaller and all depressed ...

**Beppe Grillo:** They are pricks, penises, perfect for the architect that has a long one, understand? Some have one that is turned inside out, while others have one that is pinched in the middle ...

**Massimo Majowiecki:** There are all sorts. You will be seeing this one during the upcoming Olympics; it is the Olympic Stadium in Peking. Forty thousand tons of pure steel. Six thousand tons are normally sufficient to build a stadium. Is this total wastage of energy at all worthwhile? Is it really so beautiful?

**Beppe Grillo:** Oh - you say - but the Chinese teams have a total of one hundred and twenty eight members.

**Massimo Majowiecki:** It was meant to look like a nest, but just look how the nest has turned out. Forward, go forward ... these are some of the things we will be seeing in the future.

**Beppe Grillo:** A seat... what is it, a child's chair?

**Massimo Majowiecki:** No, it's a duck ... It's all in the technical literature.

This is a building in Holland, a skyscraper to be precise. It looks a bit like a mummy walking around the town.

**Beppe Grillo:** It is madness ... and yet they are actually building these things. They built one for you on the motorway. Calatrava, the Spanish one. All around the world they are taking the piss out of Calatrava because they say that these bridges are going from somewhere to nowhere. In other words, they are going nowhere!

**Massimo Majowiecki:** This is Dalì. They mistook him for a new building! Someone said to me: "Look, what a fantastic idea. A sloping elevator between one building and another".

**Beppe Grillo:** Instead, all it is, is a Salvador Dalì painting...

I want to tell you about a bridge that they have built in Venice because, according to him, it will soon cause some sort of chaos because it won't stay up.

They have built a bridge that links Roma square, where the cars are parked, to the railway station. It is as if anyone arriving in Venice via the railway station were to say to himself: "let me go and see

what cars there are in the square ...”. Or as if someone arriving in the square by car would say: “let’s see who is getting off the train”.  
Fuck-off, I beg of you!

**Massimo Majowiecki:** The truth of the matter is that we now have an incredible amount of “Know how”, in the sense that we are able to conceive and do virtually anything. However, we no longer ask ourselves whether we “know why?” Precisely the same argument applies to walkways. In the old days, we built them to get us from here to there, nowadays from point A to point B and, bit-by-bit, because we are becoming increasingly sophisticated, this is what we land up with ....

This is one of the new generation of walkways that are becoming increasingly ridiculous. The structures are becoming ever more unbalanced and they land up costing four or five times as much, all in order to get us from point A to point B in a really roundabout way.

In Venice, the bridge has just been assembled. I know its entire history and I could stand here talking about it for an hour at least. Let’s just say that it was expected to cost two million Euro, while the actual final cost turned out to be fourteen million Euro. It took seven years to build the bridge. This money could have been better spent. The Rialto Bridge was built, by hand, in less than three years. So much for all of our modern technology.

For example, according to the politicians, it is important to review the principle that states that every individual must accept personal responsibility. Take a look at Merida. This is the beautiful Roman bridge. Just look at what they put up behind it in the name of innovation. Just look how much better it would look.

**Beppe Grillo:** It is absolutely incredible. You do understand, of course, that if they were to ask our opinion of their crap ideas, none would ever see the light of day? That is precisely why they don’t bother to ask our opinions! And the man in the street is unable to have his say in the municipal council meetings, simply because they won’t let him in! Now do you understand the position we’re in?